BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

(Registered Charity No.1085476)

Annual report: 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

COVID has had little impact on our work in Fryent Country Park this year, with a full programme of Sunday morning projects and additional work being done in ad hoc mini projects. A lot of work has been done on the Gaderbrook and its catchment area, supported by a grant from the Brent Heritage for Health and Wellbeing fund. This has included the construction of several leaky weirs to slow down the water flow after periods of heavy rain. We have also been successful in our application for a grant from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) fund to improve drainage and habitat between the two schools on Slough Lane. We have continued our work in the acid grassland areas, and on opening up views from the top of Barn Hill and the Repton woodland. We have had help from Froglife to improve Richards Pond as a habitat for amphibians. Long-term monitoring of wildlife has continued. This year 18 species of butterflies were recorded on the transects. Meadow Brown had the highest numbers. Marbled White and Ringlet are now established as regular breeders. This year saw the first FCP record for adult Brown Hairstreak. The 2022 frogspawn season produced 1,129 clumps, half the 2021 total. We planted 8 trees this year. The Park won Gold in the London in Bloom awards (Country Park of the Year category).

Roe Green Walled Garden had no restrictions on its opening hours this year, although we were unable to hold any Open Days or other social events. Our volunteers have been kept busy maintaining the various habitats. We had visits from 8 classes from local schools – 240 children in total. The Garden was awarded a Green Flag – the judges were impressed by our achievements. It also won Gold in the Small Conservation Area category of the London in Bloom awards and was the overall winner in this category.

Our website is being given a thorough overhaul to make it more hospitable to the range of electronic devices now used to access the internet, and this should also help to recruit more volunteers.

Our volunteers put in some 458 workdays in FCP and 1,714 in the Walled Garden. They were joined by 4 young volunteers on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Keep up the good work!

John Barrington (Chairman)